

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
27 December 2002 (27.12.2002)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 02/102357 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **A61K 9/68**,
31/465, A61P 43/00

(21) International Application Number: **PCT/SE02/01158**

(22) International Filing Date: **14 June 2002 (14.06.2002)**

(25) Filing Language: **English**

(26) Publication Language: **English**

(30) Priority Data:
0102197-1 **20 June 2001 (20.06.2001)** **SE**

(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): **PHARMACIA AB** [SE/SE]; S-112 87 Stockholm (SE).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): **LINDELL, Katarina** [SE/SE]; Skarhult 1325, S-241 93 eslöv (SE). **LINDBERG, Nils-Olof** [SE/SE]; Sveagatan 100 C, S-216 15 Malmö (SE). **OLSSON, Roland** [SE/SE]; Saffransgatan 5, SE-253 73 Helsingborg (SE).

(74) Agent: **HEDENSTRÖM, John**; c/o Pharmacia AB, Box 941, S-251 09 Helsingborg (SE).

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— *with international search report*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: **A COATED NICOTINE-CONTAINING CHEWING GUM, MANUFACTURE AND USE THEREOF**

(57) Abstract: A coated chewing gum product for the delivering of nicotine in any form to a subject by a rapid transmucosal uptake in the oral cavity comprising at least one gum core, nicotine in any form and/or a nicotine mimicking agent, at least one coating layer and optionally at least one or more other additive, wherein said at least one coating layer is buffered. Also contemplated is a method for the delivering of nicotine in any form, a method for the reduction of the urge to smoke or use tobacco as well as a method for producing said coated chewing gum and the use of the same form obtaining a quick transmucosal uptake of the nicotine in the oral cavity of a subject.

WO 02/102357 A1

**A COATED NICOTINE-CONTAINING CHEWING GUM, MANUFACTURE
AND USE THEREOF**

Technical Field

This invention relates to a coated chewing gum product for delivering nicotine to a
5 subject. Also contemplated is a method and a system for delivering nicotine as well as use
and production of said coated chewing gum product.

Background of the Invention

Tobacco dependence and reduction thereof

In recent years, with the recognition of the harmful effects of tobacco smoking,
10 there have been numerous campaigns and programs by governmental agencies and various
health groups and other interested organisations to disseminate information about the
adverse health effects resulting from tobacco smoking. Moreover, and as a result of this
recognition of the harmful effects, there have been many programs directed to attempts in
reducing smoking incidence.

15 Nicotine is an organic compound and is the principal alkaloid of tobacco. Nicotine
is the chief addictive ingredient in the tobacco used in cigarettes, cigars, snuff and the like.
Nicotine is also an addictive drug, though, and smokers characteristically display a strong
tendency to relapse after having successfully stopped smoking for a time. Nicotine is the
worlds second most used drug, after caffeine from coffee and tea.

20 The main problem with tobacco smoking is its enormous implications on health.
Today it is estimated that smoking related diseases cause some 3 – 4 million deaths per
year. In the US Surgeon General's 1988 report on The Health Consequences of Smoking, it
was estimated that in the US alone about 300.000 deaths are caused each year by diseases
related to cigarette smoking. In fact, excessive smoking is now recognised as one of the
25 major health problems throughout the world. This grim consequence of tobacco smoking
has urged many medical associations and health authorities to take very strong actions
against the use of tobacco.

Even though tobacco smoking is decreasing in many developed countries today it is
hard to see how the societies could get rid of the world's second most used drug.

30 The most advantageous thing a heavy smoker can do is to reduce or preferably even
stop smoking completely. Experience shows, however, that most smokers find this
extremely difficult since, mostly, tobacco smoking results in a dependence disorder or
craving. The WHO has in its International Classification of Disorders a diagnosis called

Tobacco Dependence. Others like the American Psychiatric Association call the addiction Nicotine Dependence. It is generally accepted that these difficulties to stop smoking result from the fact those heavy smokers are dependent on nicotine. The most important risk factors are, however, substances that are formed during the combustion of tobacco, such as
5 carbon monoxide, tar products, aldehydes, and hydrocyanic acid.

Effects of nicotine

The administration of nicotine can give satisfaction and the usual method is by smoking, either by smoking e g a cigarette, a cigar or a pipe. However, smoking has health hazards and it is therefore desirable to formulate an alternative way of administering
10 nicotine in a pleasurable manner that can be used to facilitate withdrawal from smoking and/or used as a replacement for smoking.

When smoking a cigarette, nicotine is quickly absorbed into the smoker's blood and reaches the brain within around ten seconds after inhalation. The quick uptake of nicotine gives the consumer a rapid satisfaction, or kick. The satisfaction, then, lasts during the
15 smoking time of the cigarette and for a period of time thereafter. The poisonous, toxic, carcinogenic, and addictive nature of smoking has provided efforts for methods, compositions and devices, which help in breaking the habit of smoking cigarettes.

Nicotine is an addictive poisonous alkaloid $C_5H_4NC_4H_7NCH_3$, derived from the tobacco plant. Nicotine is also used as an insecticide. Approximately forty milligrams of
20 nicotine is able to kill an adult (Merck Index).

Nicotine replacement products

One way to reduce smoking is to provide nicotine in a form or manner other than by smoking and some products have been developed to fulfil this need. Nicotine containing formulations are currently the dominating treatments for tobacco dependence.

25 The successes in achieving reduction in the incidence of smoking have been relatively poor using presently known products. The present state of the art involves both behavioural approaches and pharmacological approaches. More than 80 % of the tobacco smokers who initially quit smoking after using some behavioural or pharmacological approach to singly reduce smoking incidence generally relapse and return to the habit of
30 smoking at their former rate of smoking within about a one year's period of time.

As an aid for those who are willing to stop smoking there are several ways and forms of nicotine replacement products available on the market; such as nicotine chewing gum. Several methods and means have been described for diminishing the desire of a

subject to use tobacco, which comprises the step of administering to the subject nicotine or a derivative thereof as described in e.g. US 5 810 018 (oral nicotine spray), US 5 939 100 (nicotine containing microspheres) and US 4 967 773 (nicotine containing lozenge).

Nicotine-containing nose drops have been reported (Russell et al., British Medical Journal, Vol. 286, p. 683 (1983); Jarvis et al., Brit. J. of Addiction, Vol. 82, p. 983 (1987)). Nose drops, however, are difficult to administer and are not convenient for use at work or in other public situations. Ways of administering nicotine by way of delivering directly into the nasal cavity by spraying is known from US 4 579 858, DE 32 41 437 and WO/93 127 64. There may, though, be local nasal irritation with use of nasal nicotine formulations.

10 The difficulty in administration also results in unpredictability of the dose of nicotine administered.

The use of skin patches for transdermal administration of nicotine has been reported (Rose, in Pharmacologic Treatment of Tobacco Dependence, (1986) pp. 158-166, Harvard Univ. Press). Nicotine-containing skin patches that are in wide use today can cause local

15 irritation and the absorption of nicotine is slow and affected by cutaneous blood flow.

Also, inhaling devices resembling a cigarette are known for uptake of nicotine vapours as suggested in US 5 167 242. Said means and methods address the problems associated with addiction to nicotine.

Nicotine chewing gum

20 One of the most successful approaches to date in reducing the incidence of smoking relies upon nicotine containing chewing gum that is designed to reduce smoking withdrawal symptoms. The reported success rate is approximately twice that of placebo. The use of the nicotine gum suffers from several problems e.g. that it has been found that the nicotine containing gum does not sufficiently rapidly satisfy the craving that most

25 smokers experience.

Prior art and problems thereof

One successful product that is used as a smoking substitute and/or as a smoking cessation aid and which is based on nicotine, is the chewing gum Nicorette®. This product was one of the first nicotine replacement forms that was approved by the Food and Drug

30 Administration (FDA) and is still one of the most used nicotine replacement products. Nicorette® chewing gum has been on the market in about 60 countries for several years. In this chewing gum the nicotine is present in the form of a complex with an insoluble cation-exchanger (polacrilex) that is dispersed in a gum base. The nicotine is slowly released from

the gum due to chewing and will reach similar plasma levels as when smoking a cigarette after about 30 minutes depending on the chewing technique, i e slow or active. Patents related to this product are, e g, the US Patents 3,877,468, 3,901,248 and 3,845,217.

WO 98/23165 discloses a chewing gum wherein nicotine may be in the coating.

5 This concept may provide rapid release of the nicotine from the coated chewing gum, but not a sufficiently rapid buccal uptake of the nicotine. The fraction of the released nicotine that is not immediately absorbed will be flushed down in the gastrointestinal (G.I.) tracts by the saliva, thereby possibly causing hiccups and other G.I. side effects. Once absorbed by the G.I. route this swallowed nicotine will be subjected to first pass metabolism.

10 WO 00/13662 discloses a chewing gum for systemic, oral administration of an active whereby said active is administered by the chewing gum composition in a bi-phasic manner. The bi-phasic delivery is obtained by the gum matrix as such, not from any coating.

WO 00/19977 discloses a substantially moisture free and possibly coated chewing
15 gum for delivery of an active. The possible coating is not said to be buffered.

It is highly desirable in light of the aforementioned problems to develop means and methods for the administration of nicotine to give a satisfaction to a person craving for nicotine or to provide a sense of smoking satisfaction without smoking, which can also avoid problems associated with the prior art means and methods. In this respect, the present
20 invention addresses this need and interest.

Summary of the Invention

In view of the foregoing disadvantages known in the art when trying to deliver nicotine to a subject so as to obtain a rapid transmucosal uptake of nicotine in the oral cavity of the subject the present invention provides a new and improved product, systems
25 and methods for obtaining a rapid transmucosal uptake of nicotine in the oral cavity of the subject.

An object of the present invention is to provide an efficient and effective product, as well as methods and systems for a rapid uptake of nicotine in a subject to avoid the disadvantages of such previously known products and methods.

30 Thus, the present invention provides a method for delivering nicotine in any form to a subject comprising administering to a subject said coated chewing gum product containing nicotine in any form into the oral cavity of the subject and allowing the nicotine in any form in the coated chewing gum product to be released in the saliva in the oral

cavity and absorbed into the systemic circulation of the subject as well as a method for producing said coated chewing gum.

The present invention also provides a method for obtaining reduction of the urge to smoke or use tobacco containing material and/or for providing a sense of smoking satisfaction without smoking, comprising the steps of replacing at least partly the tobacco containing material with above said coated chewing gum product, administering to a subject a coated chewing gum product containing nicotine in any form into the oral cavity of the subject and allowing the nicotine in any form of the coated chewing gum product to be released in the saliva in the oral cavity and absorbed by the subject.

Furthermore, the present invention provides a system for delivering nicotine in any form to a subject, comprising said coated chewing gum product and at least one other means for obtaining reduction of the urge to smoke or use of tobacco as well as a system for obtaining reduction of the urge to smoke or otherwise use of tobacco and/or for providing a sense of smoking satisfaction without smoking, comprising a coated chewing gum product according to above and at least one other method for obtaining reduction of the urge to smoke or otherwise use of tobacco. Said system may be a system wherein the at least other method is selected from the group consisting of administration through mouth sprays, nasal sprays, transdermal patches, inhaling devices, lozenges, tablets and parenteral methods, subcutaneous methods, intravenous methods, rectal methods, vaginal methods and transmucoasal methods; or otherwise use of tobacco.

Still furthermore the present invention relates to a coated chewing gum product comprising at least one chewing gum core, nicotine in any form and/or a nicotine mimicking agent, at least one coating layer and optionally at least one or more other additive, wherein said at least one coating layer is buffered.

Said product may further comprise at least one core being buffered and further may also the nicotine in any form be a part of the at least one coating layer or at least one of the at least one coating layers. The at least one coating is buffered, according to the invention, in such a way that upon administration of the gum the pH of the saliva is increased by 0.3 - 4 pH units, or preferably increased by 0.5 - 2 pH units. Said product is buffered by the use of a buffer selected from the group consisting of a carbonate, including bicarbonate or sesquicarbonate, glycinate, phosphate, glycerophosphate or citrate of an alkali metal, such as potassium and sodium, e g trisodium and tripotassium citrate, or ammonium, and mixtures thereof.

Use of said product will according to the invention rapidly deliver nicotine in any form to a subject and will also be used for obtaining a quick and/or sustained and/or complete reduction of the urge to smoke or use tobacco and/or for providing a sense of smoking satisfaction without smoking resembling the sense of smoking satisfaction and
5 reduction of the urge to smoke obtained after regular smoking or use of tobacco.

Detailed Description of the Invention

Definitions

As used herein, the term "chewing gum product" intends to mean all chewable gum products.

10 The term "fast reduction of the urge to smoke or use tobacco " is herein intended to mean an initial priming of the subject so as to achieve a reduction of the urge to smoke or use tobacco.

The term "sustained" is herein intended to mean prolonged over time.

The term "complete reduction " or "complete" is herein intended to mean complete
15 or substantially complete reduction.

The term "controlled release" is intended to mean a release of a substance from a gum by the aid of active chewing of the gum in the oral cavity of the subject, whereby the active chewing is controlling the amount of substance released.

The term "slow release " is intended to mean that the nicotine is released from the
20 gum upon, e g chewing, over a period of time e g several minutes to an hour.

The term "unit formula" is intended to mean one chewing gum product.

The term "transient" is intended to mean a non-permanent change, upon which the relevant state, e g biological or physiological state, after a certain period of time will return to its value or behaviour prior to said change.

25 The term "buccal" and "buccally" are herein intended to pertain to all of or any part of the tissue of the oral cavity.

The coated chewing gum

Presently existing nicotine chewing gums provide a slow release and a slow uptake of nicotine. This will not resemble the actual sense of satisfaction when smoking, where an
30 initial fast uptake of nicotine is achieved giving the smoker, i e the subject, a sense of satisfaction. Accordingly, as revealed above, the present invention relates to a coated chewing gum product for improving the absorption of nicotine in a subject, and wherein the absorption is quicker than by using current means and methods known in the art of

nicotine chewing gums. Such a rapid transmucosal uptake of the nicotine in the oral cavity is expected to give more of a cigarette like sense of satisfaction and a more rapid reduction of the urge to smoke and use tobacco.

According to the invention, a coated chewing gum product is used for improving
5 the absorption of said nicotine. The coated chewing gum product comprises at least one chewing gum core, nicotine in any form and/or a nicotine mimicking agent, at least one coating layer and at least one other additive, wherein at least one of said coating layer is buffered.

Also, the at least one core may be buffered in different embodiments. The core may
10 be buffered with the same or different ways of buffering as the at least one coating layer.

Said buffering of the at least one coating layer and optionally the at least one core generates a coated chewing gum product giving improved absorption kinetics of nicotine compared to in the art known chewing gum products.

The chewing gum product may be a medicated chewing gum. Medicated chewing
15 gums are herein intended to mean solid or semi-solid, single-dose preparations with a base consisting mainly of gum that are intended to be chewed but not swallowed, where the chewing gums act as a drug delivery system. They contain one or more active substances, which are released by chewing. After dissolution or dispersion of the active substance in the saliva, such chewing gums are used for i) local treatment of mouth diseases and ii)
20 systemic delivery after absorption through transmucosal uptake throughout the oral cavity.

The buffering agent

Absorption of nicotine from the oral cavity to the systemic circulation is dependent on the pH of the saliva, pH of the blood plasma and the pKa of nicotine, which is about 7.8. Assuming a pH of the plasma of 7.4 and of the saliva of 6.8 only about 10% of the
25 nicotine will be in the free base form. Thus, in order to promote absorption of nicotine in a free base form, which is the form predominantly absorbed through the mucosa, the pH of the saliva must be increased. At a pH of 8.8 about 90% of the nicotine will then be in the free base form.

Thus according to the invention, the coated chewing gum product is buffered. This
30 may be achieved by including physiologically acceptable buffering substances or agents, or by other means. With other means it is intended to include buffering by any component in the product, which may not normally act as a buffering agent, such as a self-buffering additive or gum base.

According to the invention, at least one coating layer is buffered. In specific embodiments, also the at least one core is buffered.

In specific embodiments, the at least one coating layer is buffered in such a way that upon administration of the gum the pH of the saliva is increased 0.3 - 4 pH units, preferably 0.5 - 2 pH units. The buffering is designed so as to achieve a transient buffering of the saliva of a subject during melting, disintegration or dissolution of the coating layer or layers. As the change is transient, the pH will return to its normal value after a certain period of time.

Similarly, the at least one core may be buffered. This may allow said change in the pH to be ensured during chewing of the core of the gum product, where the chewing allows the suitable buffer agent or substance or other means to produce a transient change in the pH of the saliva, e.g. an increase in the pH.

By employing the said change, here as an increase, in said pH of the saliva the transmucosal uptake of nicotine in the oral cavity is changed, e.g. increased compared to the nicotine uptake when the saliva is not buffered according to the invention. Also, since the transmucosal uptake of nicotine in the oral cavity according to the invention is faster than for nicotine not being buffered according to the invention, less nicotine will be swallowed to reach the gastrointestinal (G.I.) tract. The nicotine that reaches the G.I. tract will be subjected to first pass metabolism which reduces the total amount of intact nicotine absorbed. This means that the bio-availability of nicotine that is not co-administered with a buffer according to the invention will generally be lower than when administered together with a buffer.

Further embodiments of the invention includes combinations wherein the at least one coating layer is buffered by the use of a buffer selected from the group consisting of a carbonate including bicarbonate or sesquicarbonate, glycinate, phosphate, glycerophosphate or citrate of an alkali metal, such as potassium or sodium, or ammonium, and mixtures thereof.

Further embodiments may use trisodium or tripotassium citrate, and mixtures thereof.

Still further embodiments may use different phosphate systems, such as trisodium phosphate, disodium hydrogen phosphate; and tripotassium phosphate, dipotassium hydrogen phosphate, and calcium hydroxide, sodium glycinate; and mixtures thereof.

Alkali metal carbonates, glycinate and phosphates are preferred buffering agents.

The one or more buffering agents may to some extent be microencapsulated or otherwise coated as granules with polymers and/or lipids being less soluble in saliva than is the one or more buffering agents. Such microencapsulation controls the dissolution rate whereby is extended the time frame of the buffering effect.

5 In order to increase the buffering capacity still further without correspondingly increasing the pH, one may in specific embodiments use a second or auxiliary buffering agent to the first buffering agent, such as e g sodium or potassium bicarbonate buffers. The second or auxiliary buffering agent may be selected from the group consisting of alkali metal bicarbonates that are preferred for this purpose. Thus, further embodiments of the
10 invention may comprise a mixture of an alkali metal carbonate or phosphate and alkali metal bicarbonate.

The amount of the buffering agent or agents in the chewing gum composition is preferably sufficient in the specific embodiments to raise the pH of the saliva to above 7, as specified above, to transiently maintain the pH of the saliva in the oral cavity above 7, e g
15 pH 7 - 11.

The nicotine may be administered in different forms, e g in different complexes or salts. The amount of buffer required to achieve such an increase in pH of the different administered nicotine form is readily calculated by the skilled man in the art. The extent and duration of the increase in pH is dependent on type and amount of the buffering
20 agent(s) used as well as where, i e in the at least one coating layer and optionally in the at least one core, the buffer is distributed in the product and is further described within the paragraphs below.

The coating of the gum core

The process of coating a chewing gum is well known in the art. The present
25 invention provides a coating, to facilitate the uptake of administered nicotine in any form to the subject. Known intentions of coating a chewing gum product may be to add crispiness, enhance taste, or to protect the gum, e g during storage, or as to tone down bad or irritating taste of the gum product.

According to the invention, the chewing gum is a coated chewing gum comprising
30 at least one coating layer.

The different embodiments according to the invention may use sugar coating, film coating, press/compression coating or melt coating.

For the film and sugar coating, the coating procedure may be manual or the coating may be sprayed onto the gum core/pellet in rotating pans of different shapes or fluidised beds in combination with evaporation of the solvent, e g water or organic solvent.

Sugar coating is a multistep process and may be divided into the following steps:

- 5 1. sealing of the cores
2. subcoating
3. smoothing, or glossing
4. colouring
5. polishing
- 10 6. optionally printing

Sugar coated cores have a smoother profile with less visible edges remaining from the original core. Sub-coating, e g either by dusting with powder on the sucrose solution or application of dry powder in the sucrose solution, may be used. The core may be sugar coated by a panning technique, e g using a sugar coating pan, or other more sophisticated
15 techniques capable of some degree of automation.

The sugar in a sugar coating may not be just sucrose. Also other types of sugar may do as well, e.g. sugar alcohols (polyalcohol, polyol).

The sugar used in the sugar coating may according to specific embodiments also be an artificial sweetener, being low or substantially free of calories and less caries promoting
20 than regular sugar, or a combination with sugar and/or sugar alcohol.

Film coating involves the deposition, usually by a spray method, of a thin film of polymer surrounding the core. The solution may be sprayed on to a rotated, mixed bed. The drying conditions permit the removal of the solvent so as to leave a thin deposition of coating material around each core.

25 The composition of the coating solutions and suspensions may differ during different parts of the process.

Press coating involves the compaction of granular material around an already manufactured core. Using press/compression coating, a further core is pressed on the outside of the initial core/cores.

30 Example 1 - 4 describes four different coatings and coating compositions that may be used according to the invention, *i e* sugar coating in example 1, film coating in example 2, press coating in example 3 and melt coating in example 4, all onto a chewing gum core. The coating is buffered in each case and contains nicotine as well. The coatings in example

1 - 4 may be combined with different cores. Examples of cores are given in Example 5 and further described below.

- If nicotine hydrogen tartrate (NHT) is used as the nicotine form then NHT and buffer are suitably separated from each other in the coating by keeping them in separate layers, especially when sugar coating is used. A moisture barrier between the NHT-containing layer and the coating comprising the buffer may be applied to prevent interaction between the acid salt NHT and the buffer during the coating process. Suitable moisture barriers are e.g. ethylcellulose or a combination of ethylcellulose and hydroxypropyl methylcellulose (HPMC) and/or plasticizer from an organic solvent or solvent mixture, aqueous ethylcellulose dispersion such as Aquacoat EDC(FMC Corp.) or Surelease(Colorcon) preferably in combination with plasticizer, Sepifilm LP 007 or LP 010(Seppic) – based mainly on HPMC and stearic acid -, Opadry AMB or High Performance Opadry II(Colorcon) – based mainly on polyvinylalcohol -, and polymethacrylates as Eudragit L30 D-55 or EPO(Röhm). Depending on the type of barrier film selected the moisture barrier preferably accounts for a weight of around 0.3% to around 5 % of the total weight of the coating.

An additive may be added to the coating or the core/s. Additives are further described in the paragraph *Other additives to the chewing gum*.

The core

- The amount of gum base in the coated chewing gum according to the invention is about 15 - 80 % by weight of the total gum core, and preferably at least about 40 %. The amount of gum base employed for the most desirable slow release of nicotine is usually in the higher ranges when nicotine is employed *per se* or when an absorbed form is used.

- The gum base may be of any conventional nature known in the art. For example it may comprise a gum base of natural or synthetic origin readily available from a commercial source. Natural gum bases include, e.g. chicle, jelutong-, lechi de caspi-, soh-, siak-, katiiau-, sorwa-, balata-, pendare-, malaya-, and peach gums, natural cautchouc and natural resins such as dammar and mastix. Synthetic gum bases are a mixture of:

- elastomers (polymers, masticating substances),
- plasticizer (resin, elastomers, solvent, hydrophobic resin),
- filler (texturizer, water-insoluble adjuvant),
- softener (fat),
- emulsifier,

- wax,
- antioxidant,
- and anti-tacking agents (vinyl polymer, hydrophilic resin).

Other examples of gum bases are gums including agar, alginate, arabic gum, carob
5 gum, carrageenan, ghatti gum, guar gum, karaya gum, pectin, tragacanth gum, locust bean
gum, gellan gum and xanthan gum.

Examples of gelling agents comprise gum arabic, starch, gelatine, agar, and pectin.

When the nicotine in any form and the buffering agent or agents are incorporated in
the chewing gum mass in accordance with the present invention, it is possible to employ a
10 wide variety of chewing gum compositions and amounts of the chewing gum base.
Different chewing gum products may be composed depending on the consumers preference
and the purpose of use, in respect of the nicotine level, nicotine distribution and other
additives.

The active ingredient

15 According to the invention, the chewing gum product comprises nicotine in any
form and/or a nicotine mimicking agent. In specific embodiments, the nicotine is part of
the at least one coating layer or at least one of the at least one coating layers.

In still further embodiments, the nicotine is a part of the chewing gum core or at
least one of the chewing gum cores.

20 In still even further embodiments, the nicotine is part of the at least one coating
layer or at least one of the at least one coating layers and the chewing gum core or at least
one of the chewing gum cores to give a fast transmucosal uptake of the nicotine in the oral
cavity of a subject so as to obtain a rapid kick or reduction of the urge to smoke and/or use
tobacco. Thereby may also be achieved a systemic maintenance level of nicotine.

25 The nicotine should be in a saliva soluble form to facilitate the release of the agent
into the saliva in the oral cavity and, further, the subsequent uptake of the nicotine from the
saliva in the oral cavity into the systemic circulation of the subject.

In preferred embodiments, the nicotine in any form is selected from the group
consisting of a nicotine salt, the free base form of nicotine, a nicotine derivative, such as a
30 nicotine cation exchanger, a nicotine inclusion complex or nicotine in any non-covalent
binding; nicotine bound to zeolites; nicotine bound to cellulose or starch microspheres; and
mixtures thereof.

Still, further the inclusion complex may be a cyclodextrin, such as β -cyclodextrin.

Even further the cation exchanger may be a polyacrylate.

Even more further, the nicotine salt may be a tartrate, hydrogen tartrate, citrate or malate.

According to the invention, the uptake of the nicotine through any tissue or mucosa
 5 in the oral cavity, i e the absorption kinetics, is improved in relation to the uptake obtained by known chewing gum products for nicotine uptake.

The nicotine may act as a stimulant to e g obtain a rapid reduction of the urge to smoke or to use tobacco.

With nicotine it is intended to include nicotine, 3-(1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinyl)-
 10 pyridine, with its base form, including synthetic nicotine as well as nicotine extracts from tobacco plants, or parts thereof, such as the genus *Nicotiana* alone or in combination; or pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

The most preferable embodiment incorporates nicotine as the free base form or as a water-soluble pharmaceutically acceptable salt, either *per se* or adsorbed on a adsorbent, or
 15 as a complex with a cation exchanger or mixtures of the foregoing, as an inclusion complex, such as a cyclodextrin complex, e g β -cyclodextrin, but any other suitable pharmaceutically acceptable form may also be employed.

Numerous nicotine salts are known, and may be used, e g the salts presented in Table 1, such as preferably the tartrate, hydrogen tartrate, citrate, malate, and/or
 20 hydrochloride.

Table 1 Possible acids used for nicotine salt formation

Acid	Molar ratio* of acid:nicotine
Formic	2:1
Acetic	3:1
Propionic	3:1
Butyric	3:1
2-Methylbutyric	3:1
3-Methylbutyric	3:1
Valeric	3:1
Lauric	3:1
Palmitic	3:1
Tartaric	2:1

14

Citric	2:1
Malic	2:1
Oxalic	2:1
Benzoic	1:1
Gentisic	1:1
Gallic	1:1
Phenylacetic	3:1
Salicylic	1:1
Phthalic	1:1
Picric	2:1
Sulfosalicylic	1:1
Tannic	1:5
Pectic	1:3
Alginic	1:2
Hydrochloric	2:1
Chloroplatinic	1:1
Silicotungstic	1:1
Pyruvic	2:1
Glutamic	1:1
Aspartic	1:1

* recommended upon production

The product according to the invention may also comprise a nicotine mimicking agent. Such an agent may be any suitable agent with an acrid burning taste. Examples of
5 nicotine mimicking agents with an acrid burning taste are capsaicin, piperine and zingerone.

One or more additives may be added to the coating or the core/s. Additives are further described in the paragraph *Other additives to the chewing gum*.

Amount and distribution of the nicotine in the coated chewing gum

10 The nicotine in any form is according to the invention formulated to provide the subject with a dose to achieve an effect. The effect may be to provide a sense of smoking satisfaction without smoking. Another effect of the administered nicotine in any form may be a reduction of the urge to smoke or use tobacco.

The effect may also be a combination of reduction of said urge and providing a sense of smoking satisfaction without smoking. The amount of the nicotine should be sufficient to provide such an effect in a subject. This amount may, of course, vary from person to person.

5 According to the invention, embodiments of the chewable gum product comprise embodiments wherein nicotine in any form is present in an amount of 0.05 - 10 mg calculated as the free base form of nicotine per piece coated chewing gum product. This may in different embodiments include 0.05, 0.5, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 mg calculated as the free base form of nicotine per piece coated chewing gum product.

10 Still preferred embodiments may contain embodiments where the nicotine in any form is present in an amount of 0.5 - 6 mg calculated as the free base form of nicotine per piece coated chewing gum product.

Even more preferred embodiments contain the nicotine in any form in an amount of 0.5 - 4 mg calculated as the free base form of nicotine per piece coated chewing gum
15 product.

According to certain embodiments of the invention, the nicotine in any form is part of the at least one coating layer or at least one of the at least one coating layer.

The nicotine in any form may be in an amount of 0 - 10 mg calculated as free base form in at least one of the at least one coating layer. Still further embodiments comprise
20 nicotine in an amount of 0.2 - 6 mg in at least one of the at least one coating layers, or even more preferably, in an amount of 0.5 - 5 mg in at least one of the at least one coating layer.

The nicotine in any form may be distributed in the core and/or different coating layers in different embodiments. Different distributions of the nicotine throughout the coated chewing gum will imply administration of the nicotine to the subject in different
25 ways. This may, then, provide several possibilities to adjust the composition of the coated chewing gum according to different needs of different subjects depending on the urge to smoke or use tobacco of the subject.

Release and uptake of nicotine

Presently existing nicotine chewing gums provide a slow release and a slow uptake
30 of the nicotine compared to smoking. The slow uptake of the nicotine provides a t_{\max} , i.e. the time-point where the nicotine has its maximum level measured in the plasma of venous blood, after a single dose at about 30 minutes after administration. The t_{\max} is initially

preceded by a lag period of a couple of minutes where no nicotine can be detected in the blood. Then, the plasma level is gradually increasing till the t_{max} is reached.

The time point for reaching a sense of satisfaction or reduction of urge to smoke or use tobacco after the initial lag period is individual, but may in existing chewing gums
5 generally be reached after approximately 30 minutes when regarded as coinciding with t_{max} . According to the present invention, such a sense of satisfaction may be reached after a shorter period of time due to a rapid initial burst dose of nicotine in the coating followed by a rapid transmucosal uptake in the oral cavity due to the buffered coating.

The release of the nicotine in the coated chewing gum according to the invention
10 proceeds in at least one step.

I) If the nicotine is, as in preferred embodiments, in a defined amount, such as the amounts described above according to different embodiments, in at least one of the at least one coating layers defined above the release of the nicotine takes place when the coating of the coated chewing gum is allowed to melt, disintegrate or dissolve to uncover the
15 chewable gum core in said product. The nicotine and forms thereof is released from the coating into the saliva in the oral cavity during the time period when the coating is allowed to melt, disintegrate or dissolve.

When the at least one coating layer is allowed to melt, disintegrate or dissolve a chewable gum is uncovered. The nicotine in any form may then further be released to the
20 subject.

II) The nicotine in any form from the chewable gum is released by controlled release, e g by chewing the gum core whereby the chewing is controlling the amount of released nicotine from the gum core. The release of the nicotine is thereby sustained over a period of time. This period of time may be, in different embodiments about 10, 20, 30, 40,
25 50, or 60 minutes.

The dissolution of the one or more buffering agents in the coating, and optionally in the core(s), provides for optimized adjustment of the pH of the liquid in the oral cavity.

The release may be varied by the incorporation of the nicotine in any form in a given quantity into the coating layers and/or the gum core.

30 Suitable cation exchangers are given in table 2 and are further disclosed in US 3 845 217, hereby included as a reference. Preferred are nicotine cation exchangers of polyacrylates, such as the Amberlite collection from Rohm & Haas in table 2. Examples of different salts are given in Table 1.

Table 2 Representative cation exchangers

Name	Manufacturer
Amberlite IRC 50	Rohm & Haas
Amberlite IRP 64	Rohm & Haas
Amberlite IRP 64M	Rohm & Haas
BIO-REX 70	BIO-RAD Lab.
Amberlite IR 118	Rohm & Haas
Amberlite IRP 69	Rohm & Haas
Amberlite IRP 69M	Rohm & Haas
BIO-REX 40	BIO-RAD Lab.
Amberlite IR 120	Rohm & Haas
Dowex 50	Dow Chemical
Dowex 50W	Dow Chemical
Duolite C 25	Chemical Process Co
Lewatit S 100	Farbenfabriken Bayer
Ionac C 240	Ionac Chem.
Wofatit KP S 200	I.G. Farben Wolfen
Amberlyst 15	Rohm & Haas
Duolite C-3	Chemical Process
Duolite C-10	Chemical Process
Lewatit KS	Farbenfabriken Bayer.
Zerolit 215	The Permutit Co.
Duolite ES-62	Chemical Process
BIO-REX 63	BIO-RAD Lab.
Duolite ES-63	Chemical Process
Duolite ES-65	Chemical Process
Ohelex 100	BIO-RAD Lab.
Dow Chelating Resin A-1	Dow Chemical Company
Purolite C115HMR	Purolite International Ltd.
CM Sephadex C-25	Pharmacia Fine Chemicals
SE Sephadex C-25	Pharmacia Fine Chemicals

Not only the amount of the nicotine released from the different parts of the chewing gum product is of value as known in the art, but also, according to the present invention the specific transmucosal uptake from the oral cavity of the nicotine to the systemic circulation of the subject whereby the one or more buffering agents account for provision of a suitable
5 adjustment of the pH of the liquid of the oral cavity. The uptake according to the invention is further discussed in the method paragraphs below.

Other additives to the chewing gum

Other additives may be added optionally to the chewing gum core and/or to coating layers in the chewing gum.

10 Optional additives comprise at least one or more additive selected from the group consisting of stabilisers, such as preservatives, e g antioxidants; softeners, thickening agents, emulsifiers, glidants, lubricants, sweeteners, flavours, aromatics, enhancers, colouring agents, vitamins, minerals, fluorine and tooth whitening agents and mixtures thereof. According to the invention, at least one of such additives is optionally added to the
15 product.

Enhancers are added essentially to improve, i e increase, the transmucosal uptake from the oral cavity.

Sweeteners are added essentially to improve the taste.

Sweeteners comprise one or more synthetic or natural sugars, i e any form of
20 carbohydrates suitable for use as sweetener, as well as so called artificial sweeteners such as saccharin, sodium saccharin, aspartame, e g NutraSweet®, acesulfame K or acesulfame, potassium acesulfame, thaumatin, glycyrrhizin, sucralose, dihydrochalcone, alitame, miraculin, monellin, stevia.

Suitable sweeteners may be selected from the group consisting of sugar alcohols,
25 such as sorbitol, xylitol, single sugars including sugars extracted from sugar cane and sugar beet (sucrose), dextrose (also called glucose), fructose (also called levulose), and lactose (also called milk sugar); sorbitol, mannitol, glycerol, xylitol, maltitol syrup (or hydrogenated starch hydrolyzate), isomalt, lactitol; and mixtures of sugars including glucose syrup, e g starch hydrolysates, containing a mixture of dextrose, maltose and a
30 range of complex sugars, invert sugar syrup, e g sucrose inverted by invertase (also called sucrase or sacchrase) containing a mixture of dextrose and fructose, high sugar content syrups such as treacle and honey containing a mixture of particular levulose, dextrose, maltose, lactitol, sucrose, resins, dextrin and higher sugars; and malt or malt extracts.

The flavour and aroma additives may comprise one or more synthetic or natural flavouring or aromatizing agents.

Flavour and aroma agents may be selected from essential oils including distillations, solvent extractions, or cold expressions of chopped flowers, leaves, peel or
5 pulped whole fruit comprising mixtures of alcohols, esters, aldehydes and lactones; essences including either diluted solutions of essential oils, or mixtures of synthetic chemicals blended to match the natural flavour of the fruit, e g strawberry, raspberry and black currant; artificial and natural flavours of brews and liquors, e g cognac, whisky, rum, gin, sherry, port, and wine; tobacco, coffee, tea, cocoa, and mint; fruit juices including
10 expelled juice from washed, scrubbed fruits such as lemon, orange, and lime; spear mint, pepper mint, wintergreen, cinnamon, cacao/cocoa, vanilla, liquorice, menthol, eucalyptus, aniseeds nuts (e g peanuts, coconuts, hazelnuts, chestnuts, walnuts, colanuts), almonds, raisins; and powder, flour, or vegetable material parts including tobacco plant parts, e g genus *Nicotiana*, in amounts not contributing significantly to the level of nicotine, and
15 ginger.

Colouring additives may be selected from dyes being approved as a food additive.

Stabilizing additives may be selected from the group consisting of antioxidants including vitamin E, i e tocopherole, ascorbic acid, sodium pyrosulfite, butylhydroxytoluene, butylated hydroxyanisole, edetic acid and edetate salts ; and
20 preservatives including citric acid, tartaric acid, lactic acid, malic acid, acetic acid, benzoic acid, and sorbic acid. Preferred embodiments comprise an antioxidant as the stabiliser, and even more preferably the antioxidant vitamin E and/or butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT).

Method for delivering nicotine in any form to a subject

According to the invention, a method for delivering nicotine in any form to a
25 subject comprises the steps of

a) administering to a subject a coated chewing gum product containing nicotine in any form according to the invention into the oral cavity of the subject, and

b) allowing the nicotine in any form in the coated chewing gum product to be released in the saliva in the oral cavity and absorbed into the blood plasma of the subject.

30 According to the invention, the transmucosal uptake of the nicotine in the oral cavity is more rapid than with presently known chewing gum not being buffered in the coating. One embodiment results in a t_{\max} of nicotine in venous blood of the subject after about 5 - 20 minutes.

In still one embodiment, said nicotine in any form is absorbed resulting in a t_{\max} of nicotine in venous blood of the subject after about 3 - 15 minutes.

The method for delivering nicotine in any form may further comprise the steps of

- c) administering the nicotine in any form in a sustained way over a period of time to
5 the subject.

Such a time period may be at least 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 or 60 minutes.

Method for obtaining reduction of the urge to smoke or use of tobacco

A method for obtaining reduction of the urge to smoke or use tobacco containing material and/or for providing a sense of smoking satisfaction without smoking according to
10 the invention comprises the steps of

- a) replacing at least partly the tobacco containing material with a coated chewing gum according to any of claims 1 - 20,
b) administering to a subject a coated chewing gum product containing nicotine in any form according to any of claims 1 - 20 into the oral cavity of the subject, and
15 c) allowing the nicotine in any form in the coating of the coated chewing gum product to be released in the saliva in the oral cavity and absorbed by the subject.

In one embodiment said nicotine in any form results in a t_{\max} of nicotine in venous blood of the subject after about 5 - 20 minutes.

In a further embodiment, the absorbing of said nicotine released from the at least
20 one coating layer is resulting in a t_{\max} of nicotine in venous blood of the subject after about 3 - 15 minutes.

In still another embodiment, the method according to the invention further comprises the steps of administering the nicotine in any form in a sustained way over a period of time to the subject.

25 The period of time may be at least 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 or 60 minutes.

Even further embodiments of the method for delivering nicotine to a subject may comprise the steps of combining at least one other method for obtaining reduction of the urge to smoke or use of tobacco.

Tobacco containing material may be material used for e g smoking, snuffing or
30 chewing and may comprise a cigarette, a cigarr, snuff, pipe tobacco and also chewing tobacco.

The coated chewing gum product may be used for obtaining a quick and/or sustained and/or complete reduction of the urge to smoke or use of tobacco and/or for

providing a sense of smoking satisfaction without smoking as further discussed below.

The fast relief provides the subject with a sense of rapid smoking satisfaction without smoking. Such a satisfaction will decrease the craving more rapidly than other known nicotine chewing gum products.

- 5 The quick craving relief is obtained when a dosage of nicotine is released from at least one of the at least one coating layers of the coated chewing gum in embodiments wherein nicotine is in the coating layers in the presence of one or more buffering agents in the coating and optionally in the core(s). This provides the subject with an initial rapid transmucosal uptake of nicotine in the oral cavity that will induce an initial peak, a
- 10 maximum, in the blood plasma nicotine levels after a certain time, t_{\max} . The result will be that the subject gets a feeling or sense of satisfaction and the initial craving will disappear.

One embodiment reduces the urge to smoke or use of tobacco by reaching a t_{\max} of nicotine in venous blood of the subject after about 5 - 20 minutes by the use of a coated chewing gum according to the invention.

- 15 Still one embodiment reduces the urge to smoke or use of tobacco quickly resulting in a t_{\max} of nicotine in venous blood of the subject after about 3 - 15 minutes when said nicotine in any form is released from the at least one coating layer after use of a coated chewing gum according to the invention.

Sustained reduction of the urge to smoke or use of tobacco

- 20 Still, to continue the feeling or sense of satisfaction of the subject, and to avoid that the craving returns, a sustained craving relief may be obtained after the initial craving relief. A sustained craving relief is obtained by chewing the gum part, or core, of the coated chewing gum to allow a sustained uptake of the nicotine. The sustained craving relief and/or feeling or sense of satisfaction of the subject will continue as long as the subject
- 25 maintains the blood plasma levels of nicotine at a level high enough to reach this sense of feeling.

The subject may achieve this by chewing the gum part of the chewing gum over a period of time, such as 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, or even 60 minutes or longer, e g a slow release of the nicotine caused by a controlled release, e g by individual chewing.

- 30 *Cessation of the urge to smoke or use of tobacco*

For some of the users, it may be a goal to terminate the usage of nicotine completely, due to several reasons e g health, economical, social or behavioural. This may be achieved by further decreasing the amount of nicotine in any form gradually over time.

In a specific embodiment of the invention, the method described above for obtaining craving relief may further comprise the steps of decreasing the amount of nicotine in the total coated chewing gum product described above gradually over time, so as to achieve a complete relief of tobacco craving. This method results in a weaning process gradually
5 over time.

Different types of smokers reach the sense of reduced craving at different plasma levels of nicotine. This may, of course, affect the individual types of administration programs of a coated chewing gum according to the invention. Different types of smokers include e g peak seekers or smokers that crave for a plasma level of nicotine constantly
10 being above the level for withdrawal symptoms.

One strategy may be to lower the frequency of the administered coated chewing gums. Other embodiments include varying the dose of the nicotine in said gums as well as the combination of these two. Also, the strategy may include a coated chewing gum with substantially no nicotine in any form. Such a gum may be administered at the end of the
15 treatment period, when the craving is low or substantially absent.

Systems for delivering nicotine and for obtaining craving relief

According to the invention there is a system for delivering nicotine in any form to a subject. Such a system comprises a coated chewing gum according to the invention and at least one other means for obtaining reduction of the urge to smoke.

20 Another system according to the invention may also be a system for obtaining reduction of the urge to smoke or use of tobacco and/or for providing a sense of smoking satisfaction without smoking. Such a system comprises a coated chewing gum product according to the invention and at least one other method for obtaining reduction of the urge to smoke or use tobacco. Other methods may also be a concomitant or concurrent method
25 selected from the group consisting of administration through mouth sprays, nasal sprays, transdermal patches, inhaling devices, lozenges, tablets and parenteral methods, subcutaneous methods, intravenous methods, rectal methods, vaginal methods and transmucosal methods; or use of tobacco.

In a specific embodiment, the at least other method comprises administration of
30 nicotine.

Use of the coated chewing gum

The use of the coated chewing gum product according to the invention is for obtaining a fast and/or sustained and/or complete reduction of the urge to smoke and use tobacco or for providing a sense of smoking without smoking as described above.

5 The dose of the nicotine is chosen to give the subject an individual sensory perception and satisfaction with an effect of the nicotine in any form. The use of the coated chewing gum product may also be a sole use according to the invention or a combination with other means or methods known in the field of drug abuse. Specifically, the present invention may be used in combination with other means as described above in the methods
10 in the paragraphs above.

The use may give a quick reduction of the urge to smoke or use tobacco obtained reaching a t_{\max} of nicotine in venous blood after e g about 5 - 20 minutes.

In a specific embodiment, the use of the coated chewing gum according to the invention will reduce the urge to smoke or use tobacco by reaching a t_{\max} of nicotine in
15 venous blood of the subject after about 3 - 15 minutes when said nicotine in any form is released from the at least one coating layer.

According to the invention, a use of a coated chewing gum product according to the invention is also disclosed for delivering nicotine in any form to a subject.

In one embodiment, the delivering of nicotine in any form results in a t_{\max} of
20 nicotine in venous blood of the subject after about 5-20 minutes.

In still another embodiment, the delivering of nicotine in any form results in a t_{\max} of nicotine in venous blood of the subject after about 3-15 minutes when said nicotine in any form released from the at least one coating layer is absorbed.

Production of the coated chewing gum

25 Coated chewing gum products according to the invention can be maintained in several production steps depending on the total number of cores and the total number of coated layers to be included.

A method for the production of the coated chewing gum according to the invention is disclosed.

30 The method comprises the steps of

a) providing at least one chewing gum core, and/or providing at least one nicotine containing chewing gum core,

b) providing nicotine in any form,

- c) providing at least one coating layer that is buffered,
 - d) adding the nicotine in any form to the at least one chewing gum core and/or to the at least one coating, and
 - e) coating the at least one chewing gum core with the at least one coating layer that
- 5 is buffered.

The method may in specific embodiments further comprise

- f) buffering the at least one chewing gum core, and/or
 - g) providing at least one coating layer not being buffered, and optionally
 - h) adding the nicotine in any form to at least one of said at least one coating layer
- 10 not being buffered, and optionally
- i) providing the nicotine in the coating and the buffer in the coating in separate layers, preferably separated by a moisture barrier.

In one embodiment, the nicotine is selected from the group consisting of a nicotine salt, the free base form of nicotine, a nicotine derivative, such as a nicotine cation

15 exchanger, a nicotine inclusion complex or nicotine in any non-covalent binding; nicotine bound to zeolites; nicotine bound to cellulose or starch microspheres; and mixtures thereof.

The at least one coating layer may in some embodiments be buffered by the use a buffer selected from the group consisting of a carbonate buffer, such as the carbonate, bicarbonate, sesquicarbonate of an alkali metal, e g potassium, sodium; or ammonium;

20 sodium glycinate, alkali metal phosphate, sodium or potassium glycerophosphate, trisodium or tripotassium citrate, and mixtures thereof wherein the at least one coating layer is buffered in such a way that upon administration of the gum the pH of the saliva is increased by 0.3 - 4 pH units. The buffering may be transient.

In still further embodiments, the at least one coating layer is buffered in such way

25 that upon administration of the gum the pH of the saliva is increased by 0.5 - 2 pH units. The core/pellet composition may be formed simply by mixing, rolling and scoring or compression of the chewing gum base with at least one of the forms of nicotine, e g the nicotine-ion exchanger complex, or the nicotine as a free base or a salt. Before adding any solid component, except for the gum base, it is desirable to grind and size the solid

30 component first, to ensure good distribution. The mixing is preferably conducted at a suitably elevated temperature depending on the viscosity of the gum core used. The increase in temperature decreases the viscosity of the gum and thereby enables the nicotine

and other additives to be evenly and intimately distributed within the core/pellet of the chewing gum.

Example 5 describes the mixing, rolling and scoring as well as the compression of gum cores. In principle, this procedure may be applied for coated chewing gum products up to at least 10 mg unit formula.

Mixing, rolling and scoring is done by a conventional procedure. Double sigma blade mixers are used for mixing the gum base with the other components of the formulation. The gum base is softened in the mixer. By heat (from the heating jacket) and mixing, the gum base becomes plastic. So, the softened base is mixed with the liquid components, e g flavours, liquid, sorbitol and glycerol, nicotine in base form, when used, and the solid materials, e g nicotine in any form other than in liquid form, buffer, bulk sweetener, colour as a powder mixture. The warm mass is discharged from the mixer in form of loaves stacked on trays on a truck and stored in a conditioned area until the next step starts. This is to cool the gum.

After this, the rolling and scoring takes place. The gum is extruded into a thick sheet, which is rolled by multiple sets of calender rolls to the correct thickness. The scoring rolls, usually two sets, cut the gum into the correct size.

The sheets are then transferred to a conditioned area on trays, where the sheets are cooled to make them brittle enough to be broken. The conditioned gum sheets are then passed through a breaker, which is a rotating drum that parts the sheets into separate pieces of gum along the scores.

At a sorting stage deformed gums are sorted away. The accepted gums are passed through a metal detector.

Chewing gums produced by compression, i e tabletted gums are made out of a special gum base. Such a gum base gives a rapid hydration of the cud in the mouth. High velocity mixers can be used for granulation to give correctly sized particles of the mixture. This mixture is then compressed in a tablet machine.

At a sorting stage deformed gums are sorted away. The accepted gums are passed through a metal detector.

In one embodiment of the method disclosed, the provision of the at least one chewing gum core in step a) above comprises the further steps of

- a1) providing a gum core dough,
- a2) mixing, rolling and scoring; molding; or extruding the gum dough.

In still another embodiment, the provision of the chewing gum core in step a) is obtained by direct compressing of the ingredients.

Conveniently, the compositions of additives according to the invention, e.g. the buffer system, are made simultaneously, according to known procedures in the art for
5 formulating the buffers. Depending on the physical properties of the buffer system incorporated, it may be convenient to add the buffer system/s either with the liquid part or with the solid part of the composition. In the case of buffering systems available as fine powders, it may, of course, be most convenient to add those powders with the solid, powdered part of other additives.

10 The gum mass with additives is cooled, rolled, scored and hardened sufficiently, and then coated according to the paragraph *The coating of the gum core/pellet*.

According to the method disclosed in the invention, some embodiments are disclosed where the coating of the at least one chewing gum core with at least one layer of the at least one buffered coating comprises the steps of

- 15 a) film coating, and/or
b) press coating, and/or
c) sugar coating, and/or
d) melt coating.

The product may then be analysed and further wrapped.

20 *Use for therapy and treatment*

The coated chewing gum product according to the invention may be used in therapy. Said therapy may be a treatment of a disease selected from the group consisting of Alzheimer's disease, Crohn's disease, Parkinson's disease, Tourette's syndrome, ulcerous colitis and post-smoking-cessation weight control.

25 The nicotine may also be used for the production of a chewing gum product according to the invention for the treatment of a disease selected from the group consisting of Alzheimer's disease, Crohn's disease, Parkinson's disease, Tourette's syndrome, ulcerous colitis and post-smoking-cessation weight control.

Also disclosed is the use of a chewing gum product for the production of a nicotine
30 containing chewing gum product according to the invention for the treatment of a disease selected from the group consisting of Alzheimer's disease, Crohn's disease, Parkinson's disease, Tourette's syndrome, and ulcerous colitis.

Analysis of nicotine

The analysis of nicotine uptake and effect according to the invention may be done according to standard procedure known in the art, e g using a bioanalysis for the determination of nicotine or its metabolites in the plasma of a subject.

5 Examples

The below examples are illustrative and non-limiting.

Example 1 Buffered sugar coating

This example describes without limiting the invention a sugar coating, wherein the coating is buffered and wherein the nicotine is in the coating.

10 *Objective*

The objective of this example is to provide a sugar coated chewing gum, wherein the coating is buffered and wherein the nicotine is in the coating. The nicotine is in the amount of 1, 2, 4 or 5 mg, respectively.

*Material sugar coating**

15 A. Nicotine free base

	1 mg	2 mg	4 mg	5 mg
	unit formula	unit formula	unit formula	unit formula
Component	(mg)	(mg)	(mg)	(mg)
Sorbitol	19,0	22,2	28,7	31,9
Mannitol	29,4	29,4	29,4	29,4
Xylitol	162	162	162	162
Water	q.s.**	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.
Gelatin	3,4	3,4	3,4	3,4
Titanium dioxide	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5
Sodium carbonate	10	15	20	20
Nicotine free base	1	2	4	5

* sugar coating in this example denotes sugar alcohols, not saccharose based sugar.

** q.s. = quantum satis.

B. Nicotine hydrogen tartrate

	1 mg	5 mg
	unit formula	unit formula
Component	(mg)	(mg)
Sorbitol	19,0	31,9

28

Mannitol	29,4	29,4
Xylitol	162	162
Water	q.s.	q.s.
Gelatin	3,4	3,4
Sodium carbonate	15	40
Titanium dioxide	2,5	2,5
Nicotine hydrogen tartrate, N.H.T.	3,1	15,4
(corresponding to nicotine free base)	1	5

Results and discussion

Other amounts of nicotine are possible.

Example 2 Buffered film coating

This example describes without limiting the invention a film coated chewing gum,
 5 wherein the coating is buffered and wherein the nicotine is in the coating.

Objective

The objective of this example is to provide a film coated chewing gum, wherein the coating is buffered and wherein the nicotine is in the coating. The nicotine is in the amount of 1, 2, 4 or 5 mg, respectively.

10 *Material film coating*

A. NHT

Component	1 mg unit formula (mg)	2 mg unit formula (mg)		4 mg tablet unit formula (mg)	
HPMC ^a , 5cPs	15,9	15,9	15,9	20	20
PEG ^b 4000/6000	4,8	0	4,8	0	4,8
Water	27	27	27	34	34
Ethanol	221	221	221	278	278
NHT,	3,1 (1)	6,2 (2)	6,2 (2)	12,3 (4)	12,3 (4)
(corresponding to nicotine free base, mg)					
Paraffin wax	0,7	0,7	0,7	0,7	0,7
Sodium carbonate	15	20	20	35	35

^a = HPMC=hydroxypropyl methylcellulose

^b = PEG=polyethylene glycol

B. Nicotine free base

	1 mg	2 mg	4 mg	5 mg
	unit formula	unit formula	unit formula	unit formula
Component	(mg)	(mg)	(mg)	(mg)
HPMC ^a ,5cPs	19,0	19,0	19,0	19,0
PEG ^b 4000/6000	4,8	4,8	4,8	4,8
Water	27	27	27	27
Ethanol	221	221	221	221
Paraffin wax	0,7	0,7	0,7	0,7
Sodium carbonate	15	15	20	20
Nicotine free base	1	2	4	5

Example 3 Buffered press coating

This example describes without limiting the invention a press coated chewing gum,
 5 wherein the coating is buffered and wherein the nicotine is in the coating.

Objective

The objective of this example is to provide a press coated chewing gum, wherein
 the coating is buffered and wherein the nicotine is in the coating. The nicotine is in the
 amount of 1, 2, 4 or 5 mg, respectively.

10 *Material press coating*

A. NHT

Component	1 mg unit	2 mg unit	4 mg unit	5 mg unit
	formula	formula	formula	formula
Xylitab 100	734	731	725	722
HPMC,3cPs	238	238	238	238
Sodium carbonate	10	20	30	40
Magnesium stearate	10	10	10	10
Nicotine hydrogen tartrate,	3,1	6,2	12,3	15,4
corresponding to nicotine free base	1	2	4	4

B. NRC or NCC

Component	2 mg		4 mg	
	unit formula (mg)		unit formula (mg)	
	NRC	NCC	NRC	NCC
Xylitab 100 ^a	727	720	717	703
HPMC,3cPs	238	238	238	238
Sodium carbonate	15	15	30	30
Magnesium stearate	10	10	10	10
NRC	10	-	20	-
(corresponding to nicotine free base)	2	-	4	-
NCC	-	17,1	-	34,2
(corresponding to nicotine free base)	-	2	-	4

Example 4 Buffered melt coating

This example describes without limiting the invention a melt coated chewing gum,

- 5 wherein the coating is buffered and wherein the nicotine is in the coating.

Objective

The objective of this example is to provide a melt coated chewing gum, wherein the coating is buffered and wherein the nicotine is in the coating. The nicotine is in the amount of 1, 2, 4 or 5 mg, respectively.

- 10 *Material melt coating*

A. NHT

Component	1 mg unit	2 mg unit	4 mg unit	5 mg unit
	formula	formula	formula	formula
Hydrogenated vegetable oil,type II, (Akopol E)	176	176	176	176
Cocoa, alkalized	198	197	192	191
Aspartame	2,4	2,4	2,4	2,4
Sodium carbonate	15	20	30	40
Lecithin	4	4	4	4

31

Nicotine hydrogen tartrate,	3,1	6,2	12,3	15,4
(corresponding to nicotine base, mg)	1	2	4	5

B. Nicotine free base

Component	1 mg unit formula	2 mg unit formula	4 mg unit formula	5 mg unit formula
Hydrogenated vegetable oil, type II, (Akopol E)	176	176	176	176
Cocoa, alkalized	198	197	192	191
Aspartame	2,4	2,4	2,4	2,4
Sodium carbonate	15	15	20	20
Lecithin	4	4	4	4
Nicotine free base	1	2	4	5

Example 5 Manufacture of cores

5 This example describes without limiting the invention the manufacture of different cores according to the invention.

Objective

The objective of this example is to provide a core suitable for a chewing gum product according to the invention. The nicotine is incorporated as the free base (NFB),
 10 nicotine β -cyclodextrin complex (NCC), nicotine hydrogen tartrate (NHT) or as a nicotine resin complex (NRC). The amount of nicotine in each formula unit, i.e. per tablett core, is 1, 2, 4, or 6 mg.

Principle

The core is formed by a mixing, rolling and scoring process or by a compression
 15 process.

Composition of the cores

A. Manufactured by tablet compression process.

	6 mg	4 mg	2 mg	1 mg
	unit formula	unit formula	unit formula	unit formula
Active ingredients	(mg)	(mg)	(mg)	(mg)
Nicotine resin complex 20%	30	20	10	5

Other ingredients

Chewing gum base for compression ^a	500	500	500	500
Xylitol	191	211	221	226
Sorbitol	100	100	100	100
Encapsulated peppermint oil	100	100	100	100
Sodium carbonate anhydr.	40	30	20	10
Sodium bicarbonate	-	-	10	20
Magnesium stearate	15	15	15	15
Talcum	15	15	15	15
Magnesium oxide	5	5	5	5
Acesulfame K	2	2	2	2
Aspartame	2	2	2	2

^a Cafosa Gum S/A

5 B. Manufactured by mixing rolling and scoring

	6 mg	4 mg	2 mg	1 mg
	Unit formula	Unit formula	Unit formula	Unit formula
Active ingredients	(mg)	(mg)	(mg)	(mg)
Nicotine β -cyclodextrin complex 11,5%	52,2	34,8	17,4	8,7

Other ingredients

Chewing gum base ^a	650	650	650	650
Xylitol	233	250	268	276
Peppermint oil	30	30	30	30
Sodium carbonate anhydr.	30	25	20	20

33

Sodium bicarbonate	-	5	10	10
Acesulfame K	2	2	2	2
Levomenthol	2	2	2	2
Magnesium oxide	1	1	1	1

^a Cafosa Gum S/A

C. Manufactured by mixing rolling and scoring

	6 mg	4 mg	2 mg	1 mg
	Unit formula	Unit formula	Unit formula	Unit formula
Active ingredients	(mg)	(mg)	(mg)	(mg)
Nicotine free base	6	4	2	1

Other ingredients

Chewing gum base ^a	620	620	620	620
Xylitol	308	310	312	313
Peppermint oil	30	30	30	30
Sodium carbonate anhydr.	30	25	20	10
Sodium bicarbonate	-	5	10	20
Acesulfame K	2	2	2	2
Levomenthol	2	2	2	2
Magnesium oxide	2	2	2	2

^a Cafosa Gum S/A

D. Manufactured by mixing rolling and scoring

	6 mg	4 mg	2 mg	1 mg
	Unit formula	Unit formula	Unit formula	Unit formula
Active ingredients	(mg)	(mg)	(mg)	(mg)
Nicotine hydrogen tartrate	18,5	12,3	6,2	3,1

Other ingredients

Chewing gum base ^a	660	660	660	660
Xylitol	246	263	269	272
Fruit flavour	30	30	30	30
Sodium carbonate	40	30	20	10

anhydr.

Sodium bicarbonate	-	-	10	20
Acesulfame K	2	2	2	2
Aspartame	2	2	2	2
Magnesium oxide	1	1	1	1

^a Cafosa Gum S/A

E. Manufactured by mixing rolling and scoring

	6 mg	4 mg	2 mg	1 mg
	Unit formula	Unit formula	Unit formula	Unit formula
Active ingredients	(mg)	(mg)	(mg)	(mg)
Nicotine resin complex	30	20	10	5
20%				

Other ingredients

Chewing gum base ^a	660	660	660	660
Xylitol	235	255	265	270
Peppermint oil	30	30	30	30
Sodium carbonate anhydr.	40	30	20	10
Sodium bicarbonate	-	-	10	20
Acesulfame K	2	2	2	2
Levomenthol	2	2	2	2
Magnesium oxide	1	1	1	1

^a Cafosa Gum S/A

Procedures

5 I) Mixing, rolling and scoring

Mixing, rolling and scoring is done by a conventional procedure. Double sigma blade mixers are used for mixing the gum base with the other components of the formulation. The gum base is softened in the mixer. By heat (from the heating jacket) and mixing, the gum base becomes plastic. So, the softened base is mixed with the liquid components, e g flavours, liquid, sorbitol and glycerol, when used and the solid materials, e g nicotine in any form, buffer, bulk sweetener, colour) as a powder mixture. The warm mass is discharged from the mixer in form of loaves stacked on trays on a truck and stored in a conditioned area until the next step starts. This is to cool the gum.

After this, the rolling and scoring takes place. The gum is extruded into a thick sheet, which is rolled by multiple sets of calender rolls to the correct thickness. The scoring rolls, usually two sets, cut into the correct size.

5 The sheets are then transferred to a conditioned area on trays, where the sheets are cooled to make them brittle enough to be broken. The conditioned gum sheets are then passed through a breaker, which is a rotating drum that parts the sheets into separate pieces of gum along the scores.

At a sorting stage deformed gums are sorted away. The accepted gums are passed through a metal detector.

10 II) Compression

Chewing gums produced by compression (usually being a dry method), i.e. tableted gums are made out of a special gum base. High velocity mixers can be used for granulation to give correctly sized particles of the mixture. This mixture is then compressed in a tablet machine.

15 At a sorting stage deformed gums are sorted away. The accepted gums are passed through a metal detector.

CLAIMS

1. A coated chewing gum product comprising at least one buffered or non-buffered chewing gum core, nicotine in any form and/or a nicotine mimicking agent, at least one coating layer and optionally one or more other additive(s), wherein said at least one coating
5 layer is buffered.
2. The product according to claim 1, wherein the at least one core is buffered.
3. The product according to any of claims 1 - 2, wherein the nicotine in any form is a part of the at least one coating layer or at least one of the at least one coating layers.
4. The product according to any of claims 1 - 3, wherein the nicotine in any form is
10 a part of the chewing gum core or at least one of the chewing gum cores.
5. The product according to any of claims 1 - 4, wherein the at least one coating layer is buffered in such a way that upon administration of the gum to a subject the pH of the saliva of the subject is increased by 0.3 - 4 pH units.
6. The product according to claim 5, wherein the at least one coating layer is
15 buffered in such a way that upon administration of the gum to a subject the pH of the saliva of the subject is increased by 0.5 - 2 pH units.
7. The product according to any of claims 1 - 6, wherein the at least one coating layer is buffered by the use of a buffer selected from the group consisting of a carbonate, such as monocarbonate, bicarbonate or sesquicarbonate, glycinate, phosphate,
20 glycerophosphate, acetate, gluconate or citrate of an alkali metal, such as potassium or sodium, or ammonium, and mixtures thereof, whereby optionally the buffer is microencapsulated, and wherein the optional buffering of the at least one chewing gum core is obtained by the use of a buffer according to the above selection.
8. The product according to any of claims 1 - 7, wherein the nicotine in any form is
25 selected from the group consisting of a nicotine salt, the free base form of nicotine, a nicotine derivative, such as a nicotine cation exchanger, a nicotine inclusion complex or nicotine in any non-covalent binding; nicotine bound to zeolites; nicotine bound to cellulose or starch microspheres; and mixtures thereof.
9. The product according to claim 8, wherein the nicotine inclusion complex is a
30 cyclodextrin complex, such as β -cyclodextrin.
10. The product according to claim 8, wherein the nicotine cation exchanger is a polyacrylate cation exchanger.
11. The product according to claim 8, wherein the nicotine salt is a salt formed with

tartrate, citrate or malate.

12. The product according to any of claims 1 - 11, wherein the nicotine in any form is present in an amount of 0.05 - 10 mg calculated as the free base form of nicotine per piece coated chewing gum product.

5 13. The product according to claim 12, wherein the nicotine in any form is present in an amount of 0.5 - 6 mg calculated as the free base form of nicotine per piece coated chewing gum product.

10 14. The product according to claim 13, wherein the nicotine in any form is present in an amount of 2 - 5 mg calculated as the free base form of nicotine per piece coated chewing gum product.

15 15. The product according to any of claims 1 - 14, wherein the nicotine in any form is in an amount of 0 - 10 mg calculated as the free base form of nicotine in at least one of the at least one coating layers.

16. The product according to claim 15, wherein the nicotine in any form is in an amount of 0.2 - 6 mg calculated as the free base form of nicotine in at least one of the at least one coating layers.

17. The product according to claim 16, wherein the nicotine in any form is in an amount of 0.5 - 5 mg calculated as the free base form of nicotine in at least one of the at least one coating layers.

20 18. The product according to any of claims 1 - 17, wherein the nicotine mimicking agent is any agent with acrid burning taste.

19. The product according to claim 18, wherein the nicotine mimicking agent is chosen from any of capsaicin, piperine and zingerone or any mixture thereof.

25 20. The product according to any of claims 1 - 19, wherein the optional at least one or more additive is selected from the group consisting of stabilisers, such as preservatives, e g antioxidants; softeners, thickening agents, emulsifiers, glidants, lubricants, sweeteners, flavours, aromatics, enhancers, colouring agents, vitamins, minerals, and mixtures thereof.

30 21. The product according to any of claims 1 - 20, wherein in the coating, especially when sugar coating is used, the nicotine, preferably in the form of nicotine hydrogen tartrate (NHT), and the buffer are separated from each other by being kept in separate layers, whereby said layers optionally are separated by a moisture barrier, said moisture barrier comprising substances chosen from ethylcellulose, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose

and polymethacrylates or combinations thereof, preferably combined with one or more plasticizers and/or hydrophobic lipid-based films, such as films comprising stearic acid.

22. A method for delivering nicotine in any form to a subject comprising the steps of

5 a) administering to a subject a coated chewing gum product containing nicotine in any form according to any of claims 1-21 into the oral cavity of the subject, and

b) allowing the nicotine in any form in the coated chewing gum product to be released in the saliva in the oral cavity and absorbed into the systemic circulation of the subject.

10 23. The method according to claim 22, wherein said nicotine in any form results in a t_{\max} of nicotine in venous blood of the subject after about 5 - 20 minutes.

24. The method according to claim 22, wherein said nicotine in any form released from the at least one coating layer is absorbed resulting in a t_{\max} of nicotine in venous blood of the subject after about 3 - 15 minutes.

15 25. The method according to any of claims 22 - 24, further comprising the step of

c) administering the nicotine in any form in a sustained way over a period of time to the subject.

26. The method according to claim 25, wherein the period of time is at least 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 or 60 minutes.

20 27. A method for obtaining reduction of the urge to smoke or otherwise use tobacco containing material and/or for providing a sense of smoking satisfaction without smoking, comprising the steps of

a) replacing at least partly the tobacco containing material with a coated chewing gum according to any of claims 1 - 21,

25 b) administering to a subject a coated chewing gum product containing nicotine in any form according to any of claims 1 - 21 into the oral cavity of the subject, and

c) allowing the nicotine in any form in the coated chewing gum product to be released in the saliva in the oral cavity and absorbed by the subject.

28. The method according to claim 27, wherein said nicotine in any form results in
30 a t_{\max} of nicotine in venous blood of the subject after about 5 - 20 minutes.

29. The method according to any of claims 27 - 28, wherein said nicotine in any form released from the at least one coating layer is absorbed resulting in a t_{\max} of nicotine in venous blood of the subject after about 3 - 15 minutes.

30. The method according to any of claims 27 - 29, further comprising the steps of administering the nicotine in any form in a sustained way over a period of time to the subject.

31. The method according to claim 30, wherein the period of time is at least 10, 20,
5 30, 40, 50 or 60 minutes.

32. The method according to claim 27 - 31, wherein the at least one other method is a method for obtaining reduction of the urge to smoke or use tobacco.

33. A system for delivering nicotine in any form to a subject, comprising a coated chewing gum product according to any of claims 1 - 21 and at least one other means or
10 method for obtaining reduction of the urge to smoke or use of tobacco.

34. A system for obtaining reduction of the urge to smoke or use of tobacco and/or for providing a sense of smoking satisfaction without smoking, comprising a coated chewing gum product according to claim 1 - 21 and at least one other means or method for obtaining reduction of the urge to smoke or use of tobacco.

15 35. The system according to claim 33 or 34, wherein the at least one other means or method is a concomitant or concurrent means or method selected from the group consisting of administration through mouth sprays, nasal sprays, transdermal patches, inhaling devices, lozenges, tablets and parenteral methods, subcutaneous methods, intravenous methods, rectal methods, vaginal methods and transmucosal methods; or use of tobacco.

20 36. The system according to claim 35, wherein the at least other means or method comprises administration of nicotine.

37. Use of a coated chewing gum product according to claim 1 - 21 for obtaining a quick and/or sustained and/or complete reduction of the urge to smoke or use of tobacco and/or for providing a sense of smoking satisfaction without smoking.

25 38. The use according to claim 37, wherein the reduction of the urge to smoke or use of tobacco is reduced by reaching a t_{\max} in venous blood of the subject after about 5 - 20 minutes.

39. The use according to claim 37, wherein the urge to smoke or use of tobacco results in a t_{\max} of nicotine in venous blood of the subject after about 3 - 15 minutes when
30 said nicotine in any form is released from the at least one coating layer.

40. Use of a coated chewing gum product according to claim 1 - 21 for delivering nicotine in any form to a subject.

41. The use according to claim 40, wherein delivering of nicotine in any form

results in a t_{\max} of nicotine in venous blood of the subject after about 5 - 20 minutes.

42. The use according to claim 40, wherein delivering of nicotine in any form results in a t_{\max} of nicotine in venous blood of the subject after about 3 - 15 minutes when said nicotine in any form released from the at least one coating layer is absorbed.

5 43. A method for producing a coated chewing gum product according to claim 1-21, comprising the steps of

a) providing at least one chewing gum core, and/or providing at least one nicotine containing chewing gum core,

b) providing nicotine in any form,

10 c) providing at least one coating that is buffered,

d) adding the nicotine in any form to the at least one chewing gum core and/or to the at least one coating, and

e) coating the at least one chewing gum core with at least one layer of the at least one buffered coating layer.

15 44. The method according to claim 43, further comprising the steps of

f) buffering the at least one chewing gum core, and/or

g) providing at least one coating layer not being buffered, and optionally

h) adding the nicotine in any form to at least one of said at least one coating layer not being buffered, and optionally

20 i) providing the nicotine in the coating and the buffer in the coating in separate layers, preferably separated by a moisture barrier.

45. The method according to any of claims 43 - 44, wherein the nicotine in any form is selected from the group consisting of a nicotine salt, the free base form of nicotine, a nicotine derivative, such as a nicotine cation exchanger, a nicotine inclusion complex or
25 nicotine in any non-covalent binding; nicotine bound to zeolites; nicotine bound to cellulose or starch microspheres; and mixtures thereof.

46. The method according to any of claims 43 - 45, wherein the at least one coating layer is buffered by the use of a buffer selected from the group consisting of a carbonate including bicarbonate or sesquicarbonate, glycinate, phosphate, glycerophosphate or citrate
30 of an alkali metal, such as potassium or sodium, or ammonium, and mixtures thereof, wherein the at least one coating layer is buffered in such a way that upon administration of the gum to a subject the pH of the saliva of the subject is increased by 0.3 - 4 pH units.

47. The method according to claim 46, wherein the at least one coating layer is

buffered in such a way that upon administration of the gum to a subject the pH of the saliva of the subject is increased by 0.5 - 2 pH units.

48. The method according to any of claims 43 - 47, wherein the provision of the at least one chewing gum core in step a) comprises the steps of

- 5 a1) providing a gum core dough,
 a2) mixing, rolling and scoring; moulding; or extruding the gum dough.

49. The method according to any of claims 43 - 47, wherein the provision of the chewing gum core in step a) is obtained by direct compressing of the ingredients.

50. The method according to any of claims 43 - 49, wherein coating the at least one
10 chewing gum core with at least one layer of the at least one buffered coating comprises the steps of

- a) film coating, and/or
 b) press coating, and/or
 c) sugar coating, and/or
15 d) melt coating.

51. A chewing gum product according to any of claims 1 - 21 for use in therapy.

52. The product according to claim 51, wherein the therapy is treatment of a disease selected from the group consisting of Alzheimer's disease, Crohn's disease, Parkinson's disease, Tourette's syndrome, ulcerous colitis and post-smoking-cessation weight control.

20 53. Use of nicotine for the production of a chewing gum product according to any of claims 1 - 21 for the treatment of a disease selected from the group consisting of Alzheimer's disease, Crohn's disease, Parkinson's disease, Tourette's syndrome, ulcerous colitis and post-smoking-cessation weight control.

54. Use of a chewing gum for the production of a nicotine containing chewing
25 gum product according to any of claims 1 - 21 for the treatment of a disease selected from the group consisting of Alzheimer's disease, Crohn's disease, Parkinson's disease, Tourette's syndrome, ulcerous colitis and post-smoking-cessation weight control.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 02/01158

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC7: A61K 9/68, A61K 31/465, A61P 43/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC7: A61K, A23G

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

WPI DATA, EPO-INTERNAL, PAJ, BIOSIS, CA DATA, EMBASE, MEDLINE

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 0013662 A2 (JSR LLC), 16 March 2000 (16.03.00), see pages 7-9, page 16, line 14 - page 17, line 8, pages 22-23, claims & abstract	1-8,10-18, 20-52
Y	--	9,19
X	WO 0019977 A1 (FUISZ TECHNOLOGIES LTD.), 13 April 2000 (13.04.00), pages 17-19, the examples	1-8,10-18, 20-52
A	WO 0035296 A1 (WM. WRIGLEY JR. COMPANY), 22 June 2000 (22.06.00), see page 4, page 13, lines 23-30, claims & abstract	1-52

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

Date of mailing of the international search report

20 Sept 2002

26-09-2002

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Swedish Patent Office
Box 5055, S-102 42 STOCKHOLM
Facsimile No. +46 8 666 02 86

Authorized officer
Ingrid Eklund/Eö
Telephone No. +46 8 782 25 00

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 02/01158

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	WO 0056281 A1 (ATP AVANT-GARDE TECHNOLOGIES & PRODUCT MARKETING & LICENSING S.A.), 28 Sept 2000 (28.09.00), see example no. 1 --	9
Y	GB 2289204 A (WILLIAMSON RESEARCH LIMITED), 15 November 1995 (15.11.95), see the abstract, page 2, lines 11-12 --	19
X	US 5549906 A (GIAN C. SANTUS), 27 August 1996 (27.08.96), column 12, lines 33-40 --	53-54
X	EP 0745380 A2 (UNIVERSITY OF UTAH RESEARCH FOUNDATION), 4 December 1996 (04.12.96), claims 19-22 --	53-54
X	US 5972974 A (ROBERT M. KEENAN), 26 October 1999 (26.10.99), abstract, claim 1 -- -----	53-54

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/SE02/01158**Box I** Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: 22-32, 37-42
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
see next sheet
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 1
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
see next sheet
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☒ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

Box 1.1

Claims 22-32, 37-42 relate to methods of treatment of the human or animal body by surgery or by therapy/ diagnostic methods practised on the human or animal body/Rule 39.1.(iv). Nevertheless, a search has been executed for these claims. The search has been based on the alleged effects of the compounds/compositions.

Box 1.2

Present claim 1 relates to an extremely large number of possible compounds. Support within the meaning of Article 6 PCT is to be found, however, for only a very small proportion of the compounds claimed. In the present case, the claims so lack support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope is impossible.

Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the claims which appear to be supported and disclosed, namely those parts related to the compounds nicotine, capsaicin, piperine and zingerone.

Box II

According to Article 34(3)(a-c) and Rule 13.2, an international application shall relate to one invention only or to a group of inventions linked by one or more of the same or corresponding "special technical features", i.e. features that define a contribution which each of the inventions makes over the prior art. A search for this "special technical feature" among the claims of the present application did not reveal such a unifying, novel technical feature. Accordingly, the following inventions were found:

Claims 1-52: The invention according to claims 1-52 concerns a coated chewing gum product that contains nicotine and a buffering substance.

Claims 53-54: The invention according to claims 53-54 concerns the use of nicotine for the production of a chewing gum that is to be used against any of the following diseases: Alzheimer's disease, Crohn's disease, Parkinson's disease, Tourette's syndrome or ulcerous colitis.

Thus, the invention according to claims 1-52 concerns a novel product whereas the invention according to claims 53-54 is considered to be a second medical indication regardless of the composition used. Therefore, inventions 1 and 2 lack corresponding technical features.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

02/09/02

International application No.
PCT/SE 02/01158

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 0013662 A2	16/03/00	AU 5906899 A AU 6412299 A EP 1107730 A US 2002098264 A WO 0019977 A US 6344222 B US 6358060 B US 2002018800 A US 2002102304 A	27/03/00 26/04/00 20/06/01 25/07/02 13/04/00 05/02/02 19/03/02 14/02/02 01/08/02
WO 0019977 A1	13/04/00	AU 5906899 A AU 6412299 A EP 1107730 A US 2002098264 A WO 0013662 A AU 3786399 A CN 1306636 T EP 1090341 A JP 2002519754 T US 5931764 A US 2002019296 A WO 9967702 A US 6344222 B	27/03/00 26/04/00 20/06/01 25/07/02 16/03/00 10/01/00 01/08/01 11/04/01 02/07/02 03/08/99 14/02/02 29/12/99 05/02/02
WO 0035296 A1	22/06/00	AU 719781 B AU 1274597 A AU 1338297 A AU 1743297 A EP 0967883 A EP 0969733 A EP 0979039 A US 6165516 A WO 0035298 A WO 9823165 A WO 9823166 A WO 9823167 A AU 1937700 A AU 2184300 A BR 9916303 A BR 9916304 A CN 1330516 T CN 1354624 T EP 1139773 A EP 1139774 A EP 1221863 A US 2001021373 A US 2001021403 A WO 0035295 A	18/05/00 22/06/98 22/06/98 22/06/98 05/01/00 12/01/00 16/02/00 26/12/00 22/06/00 04/06/98 04/06/98 04/06/98 03/07/00 03/07/00 02/10/01 13/11/01 09/01/02 19/06/02 10/10/01 10/10/01 17/07/02 13/09/01 13/09/01 22/06/00
WO 0056281 A1	28/09/00	AU 6203799 A BR 9917220 A CN 1348359 T EP 1162946 A IT 1311967 B IT MI990571 A,U,V	09/10/00 26/12/01 08/05/02 19/12/01 22/03/02 22/09/00

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

02/09/02

International application No.

PCT/SE 02/01158

Patent document cited in search report			Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
GB	2289204	A	15/11/95	GB 9407880 D	00/00/00
US	5549906	A	27/08/96	AU 691826 B	28/05/98
				AU 717600 B	30/03/00
				AU 6195998 A	11/06/98
				AU 7400694 A	20/02/95
				CN 1127989 A	31/07/96
				EP 0707478 A	24/04/96
				FI 960324 A	24/01/96
				HU 74920 A	28/03/97
				HU 9503856 D	00/00/00
				JP 9505553 T	03/06/97
				NO 960313 A	25/01/96
				NZ 269670 A	26/02/98
				PL 175988 B	31/03/99
				PL 312719 A	13/05/96
				RU 2153338 C	27/07/00
				US 5662920 A	02/09/97
				US 6280761 B	28/08/01
				WO 9503050 A	02/02/95
EP	0745380	A2	04/12/96	US 5783207 A	21/07/98
				US 5824334 A	20/10/98
US	5972974	A	26/10/99	US 5573774 A	12/11/96
				US 5869503 A	09/02/99
				US 5869505 A	09/02/99
				US 6206847 B	27/03/01
				US 2001011161 A	02/08/01